

TRIBES APPEAL U.S. DISTRICT COURT'S ORDER DISMISSING LAWSUIT
San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians
Appeal Court's Ruling

SAN MANUEL INDIAN NATION, Calif. – June 30, 2003 – The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians announced today that they will appeal the U.S. District Court's decision to dismiss their joint lawsuit against the State of California for the State's breach of the Tribal-State Gaming Compacts. According to the tribes, the court's ruling to dismiss the lawsuit gave no reason for this dismissal and cited no findings, which prompted the appeal.

"We were not given any indication of the reasoning behind the dismissal of the lawsuit," said Deron Marquez, chairman of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians. "By appealing, we seek the Court of Appeal's assistance in compelling the State to keep its promises to our tribal governments by at least agreeing to a meet and confer so that the issues can be discussed and worked out together. Both our tribes have continued to uphold our end of Compact agreements and expect the same treatment in return."

The lawsuit filed by the tribes on Oct. 28, 2002, and later amended in January 2003, questioned actions by the State that violate the tribes' reserved sovereign rights and their Compact rights. A major claim challenged the State's failure to manage and distribute the millions of dollars set aside by tribes that engage in gaming, including San Manuel and Pechanga, to the poorest tribes as the Compact requires.

Additionally, the lawsuit questioned the State's decision to unilaterally determine other processes, such as the method by which payments due from tribes would be calculated and the methodologies for drawing device licenses and determining the total number of device licenses available, rather than developing such processes jointly with the tribes as the Compact requires.

About the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

Descendents of the Serrano Indians, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians inhabited a territory that spanned the San Bernardino Mountains and valley and adjoining desert lands for centuries. Today, the Tribe is located on the San Manuel Reservation near Highland, California. Like other Tribal lands in the United States, San Manuel Reservation is a sovereign nation with its own system of government and tribal laws. The Tribe operates the San Manuel Indian Bingo and Casino and the San Manuel Bottled Water Group in addition to managing a variety of economic ventures. A partner in the community, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians actively contributes to a variety of projects in neighboring areas. Nearby cities and towns receive support from the tribe in the way of monetary and bottled water donations for cultural, social, and economic projects to benefit the common good of the communities in which the tribe members live and work.

About the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians

The Temecula Valley has been home to the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians for more than 10,000 years. Today the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Mission Indians is a full-functioning modern government and its people are experiencing a time of renewed optimism and hope. The Pechanga Tribal Government takes pleasure that we now have the means to build and plan a better life for our people and that we can also share with our neighbors and participate in the civic and charitable life of the Temecula Valley community. The Pechanga Band exclusively owns and operates the Pechanga Resort & Casino which first opened in July, 1995. The Pechanga Resort & Casino includes a 522-room hotel, a 75,000 square foot casino, six restaurants, a state-of-the-art theater, and a 40,000 square foot convention center. In the process of returning to economic viability, we are providing jobs that make life better for many people in the Temecula Valley.

###